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# NEWSLETTER

A Bimonthly Newsletter for Economic Research Service Employees and Colleagues

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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## ERS To Cosponsor Global Change Conference

A conference on economic research and global change is being sponsored by ERS, the Farm Foundation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric

*Conference to focus on the economic effects of global change on agriculture, forestry, and natural resources.*

Administration. The focus of the conference will be on the economic effects of global change on agriculture, forestry, and natural resources. The conference will provide a forum for researchers and policymakers to review current research on the economics of global change and discuss a research agenda for the future. The conference will be held in Washington, D.C., November 19-21.

The speakers will include Richard Stewart (U.S. Department of Justice), Jae Edmonds (Pacific Northwest Laboratories), Mike Fosberg and Richard Birdsey (Forest Service), Michael Bowes, Pierre Crosson, Bill Easterling, and Roger Sedjo (Resources for the Future), Michael Deland (Council on Environmental Quality), Tom Schelling (University of Maryland), Kip Viscusi (Duke University), Tim Mount and Duane Chapman (Cornell University), Garth Paltridge (University of Tasmania), Ryohei Kada (Kyoto University), David Godden (University of Sydney), and G. Mendzhulin (State Hydrological Institute, Leningrad).

The agenda includes an overview on the science, policy, and economics of global change, effects on domestic and international agriculture and forestry, uncertainty, resource use and rural effects, and data availability and needs.

For registration information, contact Leslee Lowstuter (786-1451).

## Deavers Delivers Hibbard Memorial Lecture

Kenneth Deavers, director of ERS's Agriculture and Rural Economy Division, delivered the *Hibbard Memorial Lecture* for faculty and students at the University of Wisconsin on April 19. His topic was "Rural Vision—Rural Reality: Efficiency, Equity, Public Goods, and the Future of Rural Policy."

Deavers discussed the continuing view of rural America as dominated by farming despite the reality that farming is now only a small part of the rural economy and farmers now comprise only a small share of the rural population. He noted that

*In 1980, the median income of farm households was 96 percent that of urban households.*

"the farm population peaked in 1916 and that employment in farming peaked in 1907. Farming now produces about 2 percent of the GNP; its share of GNP and national employment has declined almost without interruption for the past 100 years."

Deavers also talked about the improved well-being of farm households, whose deprivation relative to other households was a

See **DEAVERS**, p. 2

## Hamm Detailed to Agricultural Commission for Migrant Workers



ERS economist Shannon Hamm is on detail to the Commission on Agricultural Workers as associate research director. Hamm's responsibilities will include reviewing proposals for and overseeing progress on outside research, analyzing farm labor data sets, and helping design and organize the Commission's report to Congress. Her research efforts will focus on analyzing the impact that the seasonal agriculture services industry is having on U.S. competitiveness in the production of agricultural commodities with high seasonal labor needs.

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major impetus for many farm programs. As late as 1950, the median income of farm families was only one-half that of urban families, and over three-fourths of all farm families had incomes below the median income of urban families. By 1980, the median income of farm households was 96 percent that of urban households.

After discussing how and why the rural economy has changed in the past 30 years and the lagging performance of rural America during the 1980's, Deavers examined three values that underlie

the public's concern about rural development: efficiency, equity or fairness, and a perception about broad public interest—a rough translation of public goods. He then examined how well the principal current rural programs for agriculture meet these goals. Deavers concluded that "existing agricultural price and income policies are not justifiable on economic efficiency grounds, get a mixed review on equity grounds, and the research base is not sufficient to reach a conclusion on their public good contribution."

Copies of the lecture are available from Kenneth Deavers (786-1530).

## ERS Staff Well Represented at AAEA Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the American Agricultural Economics Association (AAEA) in Vancouver, B.C., August 4-8, ERS staff participated as follows:

*Invited paper authors:* Mary Ahearn, Eldon Ball, and Jerry Sharples.

*Selected paper authors:* Kenneth Algozin, Nicole Ballenger, Allen Blackman, James Blaylock, Noel Blisard, Richard Brazee, Mary Burfisher, Boyd Buxton, Robert Collender, Stephen Crutchfield, Mark Denbaly, Praveen Dixit, Ron Durst (2), Brian D'Silva, Douglas Duncan, Hiram El Osta, Walter Ferguson, Ann Fleming, George Frisvold, Frederick Gale, Walter Gardiner, Noel Gollehon, David Henderson, Linwood Hoffman, James Hrubovcak, John Jinkins, Paul Johnston, Sally Kane, Chong Kim, Steven Koenig, Kazim Konyar, Barry Krissoff, Bruce Larson, Michael LeBlanc, Hyunok Lee, William Levedahl, Jan Lewandrowski, Mary Madell, John McClelland, Ian McCormick, Howard McDowell, Margaret Missiaen, Michael Moore (2), Liana Neff, Steven Neff, Tim Osborn, Robert Pelly, Daniel Pick, John Reilly, Charles Rendleman, Marc Ribaud (2), Stacey Rosen, Clifford Rossi (2), Glenn Schaible, Shahla



Robert Thompson, Purdue University, visits ERS exhibit at AAEA meeting in Vancouver, B.C.

Shapouri, David Skully, Agapi Somwaru, Amy Sparks, James Tobey (2), Thomas Vollrath, Harry Vroomen, Shwu-Eng Webb, Mark Wenner, and Gerald Wittaker.

Symposia organizers, moderators, and presenters: Mary Ahearn, Eldon Ball (2), Kenneth Baum (2), Harry Baumes, Richard Brazee (2), Barbara Chattin, Nancy Cochrane (2), Roger Conway, Terry Crawford, Frederick Crook, Robert Dubman, David Ervin (2), Carol Goodloe, Ralph Heimlich (2), Anwarul Hoque, James Horsfield, Bengt Hyberg (2), Barry Krissoff, Chinkook Lee (2), David Lee (2), Hyunok Lee, Ian McCormick, Stephanie Mercier (2), Kenneth Nelson, Edward Overton (2), Shirley Porterfield, Edward Reinsel, Francis Tuan (2), Shwu-Eng Webb (2), Mark

Weimar (2), Kelley White, Gerald Whittaker, and Jet Yee.

Session presiders: Harry Baumes, Roger Conway, and Carl Mabbs-Zeno.

Session discussant: Mary Ahearn.

Poster paper authors: Carlos Arnade, Harry Baumes, Nathan Childs, Roger Conway, Ron Durst, Frederick Gale, Linda Ghelfi, Carol Goodloe, Gene Hasha, Richard Heifner, David Henderson, John Hostetler, Hsin-Hui Hsu, Kevin Ingram, Robert Kellogg, Dale Leuck, Carl Mabbs-Zeno, David McGranahan, Liana Neff, Steven Neff, Frederick Nelson, Renata Penn, Nicholas Powers, Michael Price, William Quinby, Robert Reinsel, Jerry Sharples, Alan Webb, and Paul Westcott.

ERS also debuted "Americans and Food," a computer quiz of food spending and consumption patterns, at the ERS exhibit. Kathryn Lipton designed the quiz and Kathleen Augustine wrote the program. Carolyn Riley (EMS Information Division) designed the ERS exhibit and Lindsay Mann (EMS Information Division) represented ERS at its exhibit.

## ERS Newsletter

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## Administrator's Letter—*Thanks, Kelley*

In early November, T. Kelley White will begin a new assignment in Rome, Italy, as director, Policy Division, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. For the past 7 years, the FAO Policy Division has been headed by Howard Hjort, former director of economics and budget, USDA, and under whose watch Kelley White was enticed to leave Purdue University and join ERS in 1980.



I have had the pleasure of working with Kelley during my entire tenure as Administrator of ERS. From 1980 until 1987, he was director of the International Economics Division. In that assignment, he played a major role in the internationalization of ERS. That is, he helped us shift our corporate mindset from one of primary focus on domestic issues with the "rest of the world" as an appendage to one of seeing all issues in a global, interdependent context with the United States as an integrated subset of the global economy.

Since 1987, Kelley White has served as director of ERS's Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division. The challenge in this new division has been to maintain an analytical finger on the pulse of global agriculture while integrating research and staff analyses on global trade policy with domestic farm policy—and do it all with substantially fewer resources.

On July 28, 1987, then U.S. trade representative Clayton Yeutter came to ERS to request a massive research and analysis effort on virtually every agriculture-related aspect of the Uruguay Round of the GATT negotiations. Kelley has led that effort, which has produced more than 150 published reports on trade liberalization and policy reform, and an even greater number of special analyses requested by USDA and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative. Much of the general understanding of the consequences of the existing scheme of agricultural policies and trade barriers—hence the benefits of freer trade—came from the work done under Kelley's leadership. Few economists have the opportunity to make a significant difference at such a critical time in history, and even fewer respond to such opportunities as usefully and effectively as has Kelley White.

Kelley White's lasting contributions to ERS and its publics are too numerous to list in a column such as this, but I will highlight a few. Kelley organized and led a program of research that was highly responsive to the needs of the times. In addition to the policy reform work, research on U.S. development assistance demonstrated that if aid could be used in ways to assure economic growth in poorer countries, demand for food would grow faster, creating new markets for U.S. agricultural products. A series of reports examined market potential for U.S. exports and where the greatest growth potential would be.

Kelley White also developed the architecture for a comprehensive knowledge base about global agriculture. He envisioned a computerized data base that included research results and data for all countries (with a population of 100,000 or more) necessary for analysis of supply, demand, and trade in agricultural products. Thus, he initiated development of data bases on agricultural and trade policies, population, production, etc., country by country, worldwide.

Another lasting contribution was Kelley's work as a member of the ERS management team and as a representative of USDA and ERS to the larger public. To the management team he brought calm competence, good judgment, and a strong sense of responsibility along with just the right doses of humility, dignity, and good humor. To the outside world, he was known to be extremely knowledgeable and articulate on matters of international agriculture and trade and development. Numerous letters in my "good feedback" file and frequent requests for Kelley as a speaker or expert panelist attest to this truth.

Kelley will protest that any accomplishments should be credited to his staff. True, he has an outstanding staff. But they would be quick to point out that their potential could only have been fully realized in the kind of environment Kelley created and nurtured.

Kelley, from all of us in ERS, thanks for 10 years of leadership, professionalism, and friendship. You have made a positive difference, and in doing so, enhanced the image and usefulness of ERS and its people. Best wishes in your new assignment in FAO. We look forward to your return.

  
John Lee

## Rural Sociological Society Meeting

"Minorities in Rural Society" was the theme of the Rural Sociological Society's annual meeting, Aug. 8-11, in Norfolk, Va. The following ERS staff participated:

*Paper authors:* Calvin Beale, Donald Bellamy, Lorin Kusmin, John Redman, Peggy Ross, David Sears, Paul Swaim, Ruy Teixeira, and Leslie Whitener.

*Session presidents:* Molly Killian and David Sears.

*Panel organizers and participants:* Robert Hoppe, Deborah Tootle, and Leslie Whitener.

*Business meeting president:* Leslie Whitener.

## ERS Report Chosen for Houston Economic Summit

*GATT Trade Liberalization: The U.S. Proposal* (AIB-596), by Larry Deaton, Bob Riemenschneider (FAS), Mathew Shane, and Lee Ann Stackhouse (FAS), was included in the press packet of background materials distributed for the President's Houston economic summit in July.

The report summarizes information about the current round of GATT negotiations, known as the Uruguay Round, and the U.S. proposal in those negotiations. The report sums up previous GATT rounds, gives a short history of the present round, and explains what trade liberalization means. The report also notes the other comprehensive proposals in the negotiations and cites references for further reading.

## ERS Revises Price Series for Choice Beef

ERS has revised the procedures and data used in developing price series for Choice beef. The revisions, necessary to reflect evolving industry practices, are

explained by ERS livestock price analyst Lawrence Duewer (786-1710) in *Livestock and Poultry: Situation and Outlook Report* (LPS-43), Aug. 1990. The most important change is the substitution of boxed beef, which has been partially processed, for carcasses at the wholesale stage. Boxed beef has supplanted carcasses in the wholesale market to such an extent that USDA's *Market News* no longer reports a Choice carcass price.

Other modifications also reflect changing data availability as well as the removal of more fat and bone from retail cuts. The major changes include using different retail cuts and weights to develop the composite retail price, reweighing the components of ground beef, and basing the farm value on the "5 Markets" price report introduced in 1989. Compared with 1989 price data, the revised procedures yield higher values for farm price, wholesale price, and farm-to-wholesale spread, but lower values for retail price, wholesale-to-retail spread, and total farm-to-retail spread.

## Snap-Back Provision Monitored

The snap-back provision of the U.S.-Canada free trade agreement calls for monitoring of daily import prices of certain fresh produce commodities, comparing these prices with 5-year averages for the month in question, and imposing "most-favored nation" tariffs if prices fall below 90 percent of the 5-year average for 5 consecutive days. Tariffs are to be "snapped back" only if domestic acreage for a particular commodity is not greater than the previous 5-year average.

ERS is cooperating with USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service to develop, document, and maintain a State-level data base of historical acreage statistics for applicable fruits and vegetables for the most recent 5-year period. The data bases are updated each year using

the most recently reported USDA acreage statistics. ERS economist Frederic Hoff (786-1883) is coordinating the project.

## Personnel Notes

### Ahearn Is New AREC Section Leader

Mary Ahearn is the new leader, Economic Indicators Research and



Forecasting Section, Farm Sector Financial Analysis Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division.

Ahearn joined ERS in 1978 and worked on rural development, with an emphasis on the health status of rural residents and the availability and adequacy of rural health personnel and facilities. During 1980-83, she was at the Western Rural Development Center in Corvallis, Oregon, where she worked in the areas of rural health care and valuing nonmarket goods and services, including publicly provided services.

Since returning to Washington in 1983, Ahearn has worked on farm sector issues such as farm structure, income distribution, off-farm income, farm operator household well-being, costs of production, and economy of size. Her responsibilities have included contributions to the estimation and development of the farm income and costs of production accounts and ERS's Farm Costs and Returns Survey data base. For the past 2 years, Ahearn has been leader of the Farm Costs and Returns Section.

Ahearn has a B.S. in food and resource economics from the University of Florida, an M.S. in agricultural economics from Pennsylvania State University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural and resource economics from Oregon State



University. Ahearn has received three ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards, two for equal employment opportunity and civil rights work, and one for farm finance work.

## Ball Is New RTD Section Leader

Eldon Ball is the new leader, Resource Measurement and



Productivity Section, Resource Indicators Branch, Resources and Technology Division.

Ball first came to ERS in 1975 as a commodity

analyst in the Commodity Economics Division, where he contributed to the livestock and wheat situation and outlook reports. Since joining RTD, he has conducted research on supply response and productivity measurement. In addition to numerous ERS publications, Ball has had articles published in the *American Journal of Agricultural Economics* and *Agricultural Economics*.

Ball has a B.A. in mathematics from Berea College, an M.A. in economics from North Carolina State University, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland. He has received a USDA Certificate of Merit and two ERS Administrator's Special Merit Awards for outstanding research.

## Kellogg Is New Section Leader in RTD

Robert Kellogg has been selected leader, Environmental and Regulatory Section, Resource Policy Branch, Resources and Technology Division.

Kellogg came to ERS in 1989, and has been working on the

President's Water Quality Initiative. He previously worked for 5 years at the Central Intelligence Agency, mostly on assessing prospects for economic growth in the Soviet Union.



Kellogg began his career as a biologist. After working a short time for the Iowa Department of Environmental Quality, Kellogg spent 4 years as site director of a thermal bioassay research facility located on the Hudson River, where he conducted research on the effects of power plant operation on the aquatic ecosystem.

Kellogg has a B.A. in biology from the University of Northern Iowa, an M.S. in fisheries biology from Iowa State University, a Masters of biomathematics, and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from North Carolina State University. He was awarded the Kenneth R. Keller Award for excellence in doctoral dissertation research.

## Morehart Is New ARED Section Leader

Mitchell Morehart is the new leader, Farm Costs and Returns



Section, Farm Sector Financial Analysis Branch, Agriculture and Rural Economy Division.

Since joining ERS in 1985, Morehart has had

a major role in the development and analysis of the annual Farm Costs and Returns Survey. He has authored numerous journal articles and ERS bulletins in the agricultural finance and farm management areas. His recent publication, *Development and Use of Financial Ratios for the Evaluation of Farm Business* (TB-1753), provides the

first national source of benchmarks for farm operator financial ratios.

Morehart has a B.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Delaware and an M.S. in agricultural economics from Rutgers University. He received an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for cross-functional studies.

## Osborn Named Section Leader in RTD

Tim Osborn has been selected leader, Domestic and Agricultural



Policy Section, Resource Policy Branch, Resources and Technology Division.

Since joining ERS in 1986, Osborn has worked on the

economic and distributional effects of Federal conservation policy, economic impacts of soil erosion, effects of erosion on agricultural productivity, targeting of erosion control funding, and interactions between commodity and conservation programs. During 1988-89, he was actively involved in ERS's drought assessment efforts.

Osborn has a B.S. in environmental science and an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Arkansas and a Ph.D. in agricultural economics from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He received the 1987 American Water Resources Association's Boggess Award for the most outstanding paper published in *Water Resources Bulletin*. Osborn was corecipient of an ERS Excellence Award for situation and outlook.

## Shoemaker Is New Section Leader in RTD

Robbin Shoemaker has been selected leader, Technology Policy

See SHOEMAKER, p. 6

Section, Resource Policy Branch, Resources and Technology Division.

Shoemaker began his ERS career in 1983 in ARED's Economic Indicators Branch, working on the income and balance sheet and eventually on productivity measurement.



Early in 1985, he moved to RTD's Inputs and Productivity Branch to work on issues revolving around factor demand and substitution and technical change. In 1987, Shoemaker joined RTD's Land Branch and began to work on agricultural land values, farm policy, and technological change.

Shoemaker has had articles published in *Land Economics*, *Journal of Agricultural Economics*, and *Applied Economics*, as well as in many ERS publications.

Shoemaker has a B.A. in economics from Temple University and an M.S. in agricultural economics from the University of Maryland. He has completed all requirements but dissertation for a Ph.D. in economics at George Washington University.

He has received a USDA Certificate of Merit, an ERS Administrator's Special Merit Award for outstanding research, and a Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association Master's Thesis Award of Merit.

### ERS Alumni Notes

[We invite ERS alumni to write to us at the address on page 2 about what they or other alumni are doing, where they are living, etc.]

Howard Hill, former associate director of ERS's Natural Resource Economics Division, has retired from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, after 36 years of Federal Government service.

## Highlights of Staff Activities

### *Agriculture and Rural Economy Division*

**Robert Collender** and **Edward Cook** (ATAD) visited the Soviet Union to exchange expertise on financial management of Soviet agriculture • **Theodore Covey** presented a paper, "Testing Fisher's Hypothesis for Agriculture" (coauthored with **Ronald Babula**), at an NC-161 meeting in Kansas City, Mo. • **Elizabeth Dagata** presented a paper, "Factors Affecting Work and Poverty in Metro and Nonmetro Areas," at an American Statistical Association meeting in Anaheim, Calif. • **Paul Frenzen**, **Felicia LeClere**, and **Carolyn Rogers** participated in a National Center for Health Statistics Data Users conference in Rockville, Md. • **Karen Hamrick** organized a Federal Forecasters Conference, cosponsored by ERS, Bureau of the Census, Central Intelligence Agency, Bureau of Health Professions, and the National Center for Education Statistics, in Washington, D.C. • **Kenneth Hanson** presented a paper, "Chaotic Crusoe: Models of Adaptive Economizing with Incomplete Knowledge," at a Western Economic Association meeting in San Diego, Calif. • **Robert Hoppe** traveled to Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee to study poverty, welfare, and economic conditions in the Mississippi Delta • **Anicca Jansen**, a Presidential management intern, is in ARED for 2 years • **Chinkook Lee** presented a paper, "Analysis of North Korea's Attempts at Economic Development: Special Reference to Agriculture," at a joint Korean-American Economic Association and Korean Economic Association meeting in Seoul, South Korea • **David McGranahan** presented a paper, "Human Capital in Rural

Labor Markets," at a Rural Economic Change, Policies, Strategies, and Research Issues Conference cosponsored by ERS, Aspen Institute, and University of Missouri (Columbia), in Aspen, Colo. • **John Redman** and **David Sears** participated in a Rural Development Policy Academy meeting in Sheridan, Wyo.

• **Norman Reid** and **Thomas Rowley** have been appointed to be on the President's National Commission on Agriculture and Rural Development Policy • **Reid** also participated in a meeting of the Organizations Concerned about Rural Education, in Washington, D.C. • **Carolyn Rogers** participated in an Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics meeting, in Bethesda, Md. • **Joel Schor** presented a paper, "Fantasy and Reality: Black Farmer's Place in American Agriculture," at a History of the 1890 Land-Grant Colleges and Universities Symposium, in Tallahassee, Fla. • **Jerry Stam** presented a paper, "Analysis of Farm Financial Stress and Farm Exits in the 1980's," at a Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association meeting in Truro, N.S. • **Ruy Teixeira** presented a paper, "Myth of the Coming Labor Shortage: Jobs, Skills, and Incomes of America's Workforce 2000" (coauthored with Lawrence Mishel, Economic Policy Institute), at a conference on "Quality of Work: Current Trends and Future Possibilities," in Trento, Italy • **Karen Thierfelder** presented a paper, "Impact of Trade Policy when Labor Markets Are Not Perfectly Competitive," at an Interagency Economywide Modeling Group meeting in Washington, D.C. • and **George Wallace** presented a paper, "Characteristics of High Performance Agricultural Banks in the 1980's" (coauthored with **Douglas Duncan**), at an NC-161 regional research committee symposium on "Financing Agriculture in a Changing



Environment: Macro, Market, Policy, and Management Issues" in Kansas City, Mo.

## *Agriculture and Trade Analysis Division*

At an International Agricultural Trade Research Consortium meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii, of which **William Coyle** was a principal organizer, **Kenneth Gray** presented a paper, "Soviet Economic Reforms and Agricultural Trade with Pacific Rim Countries and the World" (coauthored with Sergei Ilioukhin, U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences); **Francis Tuan** presented a paper, "PRC Agricultural Trade with Pacific Rim Countries: Developments and Prospects (coauthored with Shi Ru, Peoples Republic of China Research Institute of International Trade); and **Alan Webb** presented a paper, "Japanese Agriculture in the 1990's: An American Perspective" • **Harry Baumes** participated in a Southern Extension Public Affairs Committee meeting in Kentucky Dam Village, Ky. • **Richard Brown** spoke on the implementation of the President's Andean Trade Initiative at an Office of the U.S. Trade Representative meeting, in Washington, D.C. • **Nancy Cochrane** and **Robert Koopman** have been on detail to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations to prepare articles on situation and outlook modeling for FAO's *State of Food and Agriculture 1990* report, in Rome, Italy • **Cochrane** presented a paper, "Long-Term Effects of Major Policy Reforms in Poland," at an Eastern Europe Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark • **Cochrane** also presented a paper, "Poland: A Case of Incomplete Marketization," at a World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies, in Harrogate, U.K. • **Edward Cook** participated in a meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's Ad Hoc Committee for East-West Agriculture and Trade, in Paris, France • **George Gardner** is on detail to the U.S. Agency for

International Development in Washington, D.C. • **Gardner** traveled to Malawi, Africa, to evaluate the Malawi Fertilizer Subsidy Removal Program and Guinea-Bissau to design a nationwide agricultural producer price survey for the Ministry of Agriculture • **Carl Mabbs-Zeno** spoke on the implications of trade liberalization for developing countries at a World Bank Development Conference for Junior Professionals, in Washington, D.C. • **Steve Magiera** has been in Indonesia consulting for the Indonesian government • **Yuri Markish** was interviewed by Voice of America on the agricultural situation in the U.S.S.R., shortfalls of contracted grain procurement, and prospects for U.S. grain exports • **Gene Mathia** traveled to Costa Rica and Barbados to evaluate the performance of and to develop a work plan for the marketing and agroindustry program of the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture • **Edward Overton** represented USDA at an Interagency Committee on Metric Policy meeting on conversion to the metric system of measurement in procurement, grants, and other business activities in fiscal year 1992, in Washington, D.C. • **Robert Reinsel** spoke on the basic provisions of the new farm bill at an American Association of Warehouse Control Officials meeting in Lafayette, La. • and **Shahla Shapouri** presented a paper, "Zimbabwe's Policy Profile—Its Macroeconomy and Agriculture," at a Namibian Agricultural Economics Conference, sponsored by the International Association of Agricultural Economists, in Windhoek, Namibia.

## *Commodity Economics Division*

**Edward Allen**, **Lawrence Van Meir**, **Carolyn Whitten**, and **Edwin Young** are in Cairo consulting for the Egyptian Government • **John Ginzel**, **Lawrence Van Meir**, and **Edwin Young** presented the outlook

for wheat, feed grains, and cow-calf operations at a Great Plains and Western States Outlook Conference in Post Falls, Idaho • **Ginzel**, **Ronald Gustafson**, **Kenneth Nelson**, and **Lawrence Duewer** spoke on the nutrient composition of beef at a National Cattlemen's Association meeting in Washington, D.C. • **Katharine Buckley** was interviewed by USDA-TV on topics featured in *Fruit and Tree Nuts: Situation and Outlook Yearbook* • **Terry Crawford** and **Hosein Shapouri** traveled to New Mexico and Colorado for field evaluation of the 1990 cow/calf and Farm Costs and Returns Survey questionnaires • **Richard Fallert** spoke on current problems facing the dairy industry at a Dairy Industry Research Workshop, in Philadelphia, Pa. • **Betsy Frazao** represented ERS at an interagency subcommittee meeting on "Nutrition Monitoring: Federal-State Relations and Information Dissemination," in Washington, D.C. • **William Lin** presented a paper, "Ethanol Subsidy: Is It a Visible Alternative to the Acreage Reduction Program?"; and **Hsin-Hui Hsu** presented a paper, "Effects of Two Ethanol Related Legislative Proposals on U.S. Agriculture: Simulation Analysis," at a Western Economic Association meeting, in San Diego, Calif. • **Shannon Hamm** spoke on the tariff snap-back system used in monitoring and implementing the snap-back at a meeting on the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement provisions, in Ottawa, Ont. • **Roger Hoskin** spoke on the outlook for the 1990 soybean crop and the proposed soybean marketing loan program at a Soybean Economists' Roundtable meeting, in St. Louis, Mo. • **Patrick O'Brien** spoke at the RFF Agricultural Outlook Policy Seminar in Washington, D.C. • **Tanya Roberts** spoke on issues involved in risk of foodborne disease, at the University of Connecticut • **Roberts** presented a paper, "Assessing Foodborne Disease Risks and Costs," at a Grocery Manufacturers of America Microbiology Task Force meeting, in

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Washington, D.C. • and **David Smallwood** participated on the Food and Nutrition Service Technical Evaluation Panel to review, evaluate, and select applications for research on the Food Stamp Program, in Washington, D.C.

### *Resources and Technology Division*

**Richard Brazee** presented **William Hyde's** paper, "Value of Price Information In Roundwood Markets," at an International Union of Forest Research Organizations Congress, in Montreal, Ont. • **Robert Kellogg** and **Parveen Setia** presented the ERS work plan for evaluating USDA elements being implemented under the President's Water Quality Initiative, at a meeting held at the University of Minnesota

• **Bruce Larson** and **Michael LeBlanc** were members of a USDA delegation under the U.S.-China Scientific and Technical Cooperation Program that visited Beijing and provincial capitals to study China's land use, availability and use of water, and environmental issues

• **Richard Nehring** presented a paper, "Technical Efficiency and Chemical Use: Evidence from Corn/Soybean Farms in the East Central Corn Belt of the United States and Implications for Policy" (coauthored

with **Agapi Somwaru**), and **Nehring** also presented **Bruce Larson's** paper, "Estimating Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Land Demands at the Regional Level" (coauthored with **Harry Vroomen**), at a European Agricultural Economics Association Congress in The Hague, Netherlands

• **John Reilly** participated in the first Energy Modeling Forum Work Group meeting on "Global Climate Change: Energy Sector Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Control Strategies," at Stanford University

• **John Schaub** represented USDA at a meeting of Federal and State officials to discuss implementation of the Endangered Species Act, in San Diego, Calif. • **Harold Taylor** presented a paper, "Agricultural Inputs—Situation and Outlook," at the Midwest Outlook Conference, in Brookings, S.D. • **Noel Uri** presented a paper, "Errors-in-Variables Regression Diagnostics: An Application to U.S. Agriculture" (coauthored with John Herbert), at an American Statistical Association meeting in Anaheim, Calif. • and **Gene Wunderlich** participated in a Robert Schalkenbach Foundation conference on policy issues in collecting land rents in the newly liberalizing countries of the Soviet Union and Central Europe, in New York, N.Y.

### *Data Services Center*

**Jack Angle** presented a paper, "Stochastic Interacting Particle System Model of the Size Distribution of Income," at an American Statistical Association meeting in Anaheim, Calif. • **Angle** also presented a paper, "Inequality Process and the Distribution of Income to Blacks and Whites," at an American Sociological Association meeting in Washington, D.C. • and **Charles Hallahan** spoke on forecasting with stochastic coefficient models, at a Federal Forecasters Conference in Washington, D.C.

### *Office of the Administrator*

**John Lee** participated in an International Trade Research Consortium meeting in Honolulu, Hawaii; the USDA announcement of the National Rural Economic Development Institute, in Madison, Wisc.; and a meeting of the Advisory Committee of the Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy, in Minneapolis, Minn. • and **Lee** was elected a fellow of the American Agricultural Economics Association.